

THE EVENING FARMER

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FRIDAY, DECEMBER 24, 1909.

THE \$3,000,000
SEWAGE SCHEME

The demand for an improved sewage system must be met within a few years. Undoubtedly the sewers of Bridgeport have been constructed upon a plan that is more, rather than less, haphazard. There are localities where immediate relief is perhaps needed. There is need for a comprehensive scheme under which sewers hereafter constructed may be put down as a part of a necessary whole. True an effort in this direction has been made. Reference is to the so-called \$3,000,000 project recommended to the Sewage Commission by a firm of distinguished engineers, who have, however, failed to appreciate the conditions in this city, or meet them.

The project as suggested by the engineers is unsatisfactory in two ways. It is extraordinarily costly. It proposes to take the sewage out of the harbor without taking it out of Long Island Sound altogether.

A great part of the unnecessary cost grows out of the proposition to carry the sewage through an enormous pipe two or three miles into the Sound for use of powerful pumps. Nor is the cost all stated. The engineers imply that there will be damages to oyster beds and to the fishery if the sewage is transported to and spread over them. But the engineers appear to believe that these damages are slight. There is, however, reason to believe that the sums which would have to be paid upon account would be very large; as much as if not more than the cost of the system itself.

As to the question of the destruction of the oyster beds, and the means of destruction in whole, or in part, of an enterprise which furnishes labor for many men, profits to important business concerns, and trade for the merchants of the city.

Surely the necessity should be strong to warrant such expenditure of public funds and such injury to private property.

Upon the face of the report of the engineers it appears that this expense, destruction and waste is unnecessary. The engineers consider in some degree the purifying power of water. At present the sewage, before it reaches the oyster beds, is so far removed by the chemical action of nature forces that it does no injury.

If the Chicago drainage canal has flowage enough to take the sewage of Chicago in a sanitary way, then the flowage of the Pequonnock river is more than ample to take the sewage of Bridgeport. As to the first the engineers declare the sufficiency of the canal. How they are able to deny the efficiency of the river must remain a mystery to the lay mind.

There is no reason why the sewage of Bridgeport cannot flow into the harbor, under proper conditions for a hundred years to come. But if somebody is determined to spend \$3,000,000 on a sewer scheme the money might better be spent on some system that will take the sewage out of both the river and the Sound. An inland filtration system would be cheaper in the long run than the method proposed to the sewage commission, but, happily, not recommended by it.

THESE TIDINGS BARK YE

HOW DISTANT IS THE GOAL?

"Peace on earth. Good will to men." For eighteen centuries these two brief sentences have stood for the meaning of Christmas. During all this period the spiritual movement of progress among the nations has been toward no less a goal. But how distant is the goal? The peoples are armed camps. The natives multiply their ships. The underwater has been conquered to make killing more certain. The subordination of the air is chiefly written of from the standpoint of the additional means that are afforded to rain death from man upon man. There are those given to babbling and childish things who argue that this very multiplication of instruments of annihilation will produce its own end. As well urge that the multiplication of railways will destroy transportation as assert that to breed innumerable men to the trade of killing will ultimately stop the trade.

How near is peace? How distant is universal good will? Nearer perhaps than the champions of peace by armed men and Dreadnoughts have supposed.

Upon Christmas day men cease the trade of war. They become for one day as they would desire to be on all days. The great heart of Democracy throbs for 24 hours with a pulse that vibrates throughout the universe, and Democracy makes against cannon, and the panoplies of slaughter. Democracy is for peace and against disorder. Democracy is the force of public opinion and public opinion is a power against which, in the long run, no evil thing can continue, much

GENERAL ESTRADA, WHOSE FORCES
ROUTED NATIONALS IN NICARAGUA

less an overshadowing evil such as war is, and has been.

Signs are not lacking that a crisis is near. The Christmas ideal has done its work slowly, but surely. Just as the force that impels Vesuvius long assemblies silently, almost without warning, to burst at the appropriate instant into a cyclone of engulfing lava, so may the doctrine of "peace upon earth" engulf in one enormous moment the wrongs it is destined to destroy. A ship long building is launched in a brief space. The transition from slavery to freedom was but the instant in which Abraham Lincoln signed his name.

Christmas is doing its perfect work. It is the foe of everything that is not just. Much more ancient wrong will be swept away than the trade of war; even the sweat shop, the white death, and the various means by which man still shows his inhumanity to man.

The Farmer advises the people of Bridgeport to make their Christmas celebration this year a real one, because this Christmas marks the highest point yet reached in the battle against social injustice.

Baby Shoplifter is
Arrested Third Time

St. Louis, Md., Dec. 24.—An eight-year old girl is held by the police as the "baby shoplifter." She is Annie Pavlinsky, daughter of Frank Pavlinsky.

She has been arrested three times for theft; has spent two weeks in the industrial school and escaped; has run away from home dozens of times, and makes a practice of slipping out of bed after her family is asleep and pilfering money from her father and her big brother.

She was found asleep in a hallway yesterday scantily clad and blue with cold. She had run away from home on Tuesday after rifling her brother's pockets of \$1.50.

Annie's first exploit was robbing a store of \$2.00. She was arrested. Two weeks later on July 23, she entered a grocery store, concealed herself under a counter and stole \$15 from the grocer. She was arrested.

Fourteen days later, however, she was arrested again and was sentenced to the industrial school.

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During the last few weeks she has been busy in connection with the eastern branch of the United Workers, of which society she was an officer.

Greenwich, Dec. 24.—Overwork in preparing Christmas gifts for the poor children of Milanus brought on an acute attack of a long standing trouble and caused the death of Mrs. Stella Allyn, wife of Charles B. Allyn, manager of the Milanus Motor Works yesterday.

All her life Mrs. Allyn, who is the daughter of the late Rev. Samuel W. Brown, of Coventry, Conn., and a sister of the late Rev. Dr. J. W. Brown, of the same place, had been prominent in charitable work.

Several years ago she led in the movement to start the Children's Home in Stamford, and as a beginning took many destitute boys and girls into her own home and cared for them as for her own children. For the last ten years in Milanus, she has been mother of motherless children and a friend of the needy.

During the last few weeks she has been busy in connection with the eastern branch of the United Workers, of which society she was an officer.

SCARLET FEVER IN GREENWICH.

Attorney George E. Hill, who is the county health officer for Fairfield county went to Greenwich yesterday to look over the scarlet fever situation in that place. The disease seems to have "got away from" the local health officer, in that town, but Mr. Hill said he was satisfied everything possible had been done.

HARRIMAN LEFT
ABOUT \$75,000,000

ESTATE OVERESTIMATED AND HE DID NOT DISTRIBUTE MILLIONS TO FAMILY BEFORE HIS DEATH.

New York, Dec. 24.—The estate of the late E. H. Harriman, instead of running up to hundreds of millions, as estimated, will amount, it is now learned, to less than \$75,000,000. This will represent the maximum of the fortune held by the late head of the Harriman railroad. It is not true, as reported, that not long before his death Mr. Harriman distributed many millions in securities to members of his family.

Inquiries made in quarters from which a statement could come with authority regarding a report that Mr. Harriman before his death turned over \$50,000,000 in Union Pacific and other stocks to Mrs. Harriman and his eldest son, brought out the information that not only were no such gifts made by Mr. Harriman but that, furthermore, the amount of his estate had been greatly exaggerated in published estimates. The latest of these put the estate at \$149,000,000 on the strength of a supposed appraisal.

As a matter of fact the appraisal now being made by the State Controller's office upon which to determine the inheritance tax has not been filed, and so far as known, has not been completed. No other appraisal of the estate has been made. The statement, however, that the value of Mr. Harriman's property will be found to be not more than \$75,000,000, and possibly much less, is based on authoritative information which fixes this as the maximum. It is impossible for any one at this time to set forth the exact value of the estate. When all the accounts are settled, however, the net amount left to be turned over to Mrs. Harriman, Mr. Harriman's sole beneficiary under his will, may be nearer \$50,000,000 than \$75,000,000.

Mr. Harriman had been engaged actively in many undertakings up to within a short time of his death and in carrying these he entered into contracts which must be adjusted before his estate can be definitely settled. Since his death some of the securities held by Mr. Harriman have considerably appreciated. He was known to have held Guaranty Trust stock which represented an outlay of about \$2,000,000. Since his death this stock has appreciated considerably in value and netted the estate, upon the recent sale of this stock, the value of about \$1,000,000, fully \$1,000,000 more than this figure.

Mr. Harriman was also a large holder of Wells Fargo stock. This stock has appreciated in value since his death. There are other securities, however, held by the estate which have decreased in value, and these go, partly at least, to offset the increase in the value of some of the other securities. Chicago Subway securities are among those which have declined in value since Mr. Harriman died, and the estate is believed to hold a considerable amount of this stock.

When the facts regarding Mr. Harriman's estate are formally revealed in the State's appraisal of the estate it will be found that while he was a very rich man his estate will not be as large as some of the estimates which have been made since his death. The influence which he exerted in financial affairs was much greater than that attaching to a fortune of less than \$75,000,000.

BIRMINGHAM FURNISHES MONEY FOR JEWEL HUNT.

Superintendent Birmingham furnished the funds necessary to take a man to Hartford today to identify the jewels now in possession of the Hartford police. The jewels were found on the person of a young man arrested in Hartford Tuesday evening. They are thought to have been stolen from the home of Mrs. Michael Carroll of 244 Maplewood avenue, Tuesday afternoon.

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MANAGER
POLI
FAREWELL, OLD YEAR. WELCOME, NEW YEAR.

WISHES EVERY MAN, WOMAN AND CHILD IN BRIDGEPORT
A HAPPY NEW YEAR

THIS BIG HEADLINER
PARIS BY NIGHT
"THE APACHE DANCE" "THE QUEEN OF THE MOULIN ROUGE"
THE TALK OF BOTH CONTINENTS
THE SENSATION OF THE HOUR—VAUDEVILLE'S BIGGEST NOVELTY

TWO PUCKS
A REAL ENTERTAINING DUO

NELSON AND OTTO
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NOTICE.
NOTICE is hereby given that the BOARD OF EQUALIZATION, as the commission appointed to investigate and report on the assessment of the State of Connecticut, in accordance with Special Law No. 486, Session of 1909, will meet as a BOARD OF RELIEF to consider appeals from assessments on oyster grounds within the exclusive jurisdiction of the state, on the Tuesday following the first Monday, in January, 1910, to wit, January fourth, in Room 60, the State Capitol, Hartford, at 10:45 A. M.
Hartford, Connecticut, December 20th, 1909.
FREEMAN F. PATTEN,
WILLIAM H. CORBIN,
THOMAS D. BRADSTREET,
Board of Equalization.

No matter what you want try The Farmer Want Column.